

Glenside Online Computer Club

A SUBSIDARY OF GLENSIDE

Your Official Host
Club for the 1987
Chicago RAINBOWfest

CO CO ~123

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



Every now and then while putting this newsletter together I find myself wondering what to write about in this column.

The key consideration I always undertake for this article is that of a positive exchange of information. In general, obtaining a positive outlook about Glenside and the activities we have accomplished would fill a book not just this column or newsletter, but, this is February! The worst weather month of the year for us for living north of the Mason & Dixon Line. How can you expect someone to write an uplifting article when it's sub zero outside and the Weather Man says that we have reached the high for the day! Don't get me wrong, to some, sub zero is a February heat wave. However, to this thin skinned Yankee, sub zero temperature means only one thing, 'Writers Cramp'.

Two things have come across my desk of late that should rescue this column (not to mention my sanity). First of all, I just received my annual letter from the NY Mets stating that Spring Training is just around the corner and winter conditioning is essential for a quality training camp. Boy, let me tell ya, the heart skips a few beats each year I get this letter. One of these years, the Mets will find out that they are sending this message to a person who's pitching arm had an 'out of body' experience years ago that has yet to returned! But for now, the letter serves as a reminder that winter is only a few weeks away from being over. The second wave of good news came on Friday, January 30th. I was in my office at home when Ira Barsky from Rainbow Magazine called. A few weeks ago we sent a formal request into Rainbow asking them to consider

Glenside as the Host Club for the Chicago RainbowFest. Ira's call was to confirm our request and to say that they had selected us. Let me tell you boys and girls, all the winter blues were washed away in a matter of seconds! In the span of three days my winter writers cramp turned into a brisk spring time walk in the park. It's a comforting feeling knowing that all is well in Mudville!

During our February meeting we will be discussing our roll as RainbowFest's Host Club and what we need to do in this capacity. It goes without saying that the expert guidance of club member Rich Ekstrom will be called upon to provide us with the needed knowledge in being a good Host Club. As more details come this way, I will pass them along to you. For now, all I will say to you is THANKS. Thanks for building this Club to a level of excellence we all can be proud of. All of your hard and dedicated work is really paying off!

I would be really remiss in my duties not to mention in this column the seven (count'em 7) new members that have joined the growing family of Glenside. With these seven new members and the five how joined last month, Glenside has had a +12% increase in membership since the start of 1987. I would like to thank all the people who took the time to introduce these new members to Glenside. The legacy of service and benefits you have received from Glenside will now be passed along. Thanks again.

That just about does it for now. As a reminder, our February meeting will be on the 12th. Same Bat Library, same Bat Time. See ya then.

RAINBOWfest

ALFA-BYTES

by the Tonkin Reader

When I was a lad at the tender age of 18 months old, I recieved a pull-toy for Christmas. Two weeks after this toy made its grand appearance in my life, I was telling all of my mother's guests and visitors how the front legs of the "doggie" were connected to the axle (which was shaped like an engine's crankshaft) by wire rods, and that when the wheels went round and round, the wire rods went up and down, moving the arms which had little hammers on spring handles attached to them. When the hammers went down, they hit the plates of a toy xylophone, making the worst racket that you ever heard. And how I loved to make that "doggie" play that thing, much to my mother's consternation. By the way, just about everyone thought that she told me how it worked, but she swears to me, to this day, that I figured it out by myself. Now....what has all of this have to do with computers? I've begun to wonder about that myself. Well, it's just that I am still that little boy when it comes to finding out what makes things work. I have an insatiable appetite for the answers to the eternal questions of "Why" and "How". But it dosen't end there. After I find out, I want to know "What else will the thing do?", and "How I can make it do it?". This is the beginning of a "Hardware Hacker", a person who takes what is already there and modifies it to do a particular function faster or to do something completely new and different.

After time and effort has been expended to think out, design, build and install a hardware modification in a computer, there comes a time when the "HH" must take a deep breath and turn on the switch. This is known as the "Smoke Test". As often as not, these mods do not pass the test, and, you guessed it, they smoke (which tends to stunt their growth and development). Now, before you other "HH's" out there stunt your own growth trying to figure out where you messed up in wiring, you need to know that within the computer itself, there are certain command sets that the CPU calls upon, BY ITSELF, just to drive you crazy. Before you



Hyatt Woodfield
Schaumburg IL

tear apart your little circuit board to see if you left a solder bridge, or installed a chip backwards, check the programming of the CPU, using the following HHH (Hardware Hacker's Hades) Guide to Troubleshooting to eliminate any one or more of the following MNEMONIC (can you say "ni-MON-ic?" I knew you could) codes.

- BSC: Build Static Charge (You say you saw a little blue spark????)
- EMR: Emit Microwave Radiation (It was only on for 5 seconds before your hands began to blister?)
- ETO: Emulate Toaster Oven (It just sat there and glowed)
- IDD: Inhale Dust and Die (This can't happen if you clean the area on a regular basis)
- IMU: Irradiate and Mutate User (No problems for 13 minutes, but then all your hair fell out?)
- OBU: Overheat and Burn if Unattended (Never drink coffee while hacking)
- PNG: Pass Noxious Gas (It could have been the other guy, but you've been alone for 3 hours)
- QWF: Quit Working forever (If this comes up, play "Taps")
- UBC: Use a Bad Chip (If you've got one, this'll find it)
- VDP: Violate Design Parameters (You can't get there from here)

Over the past four months, we've had a good look at these destruction sets, covering Programming, Peripherals, and now, Printed Circuit Board Malfunctions. I hope you have learned as much as I have. If you haven't, then I hope you've had as much fun reading this series as I have had writing it. If you've missed the previous articles, and you want to see what you've missed, send an SASE to the editor. He'll get them to me, and I'll send you a copy of the series. Best of luck to you all, and I thank you for your support.

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

1987 CHICAGO RAINBOWfest

April 10 - 12

As a reminder, the 1987 Chicago RainbowFest is coming upon us fast. It is being held at an earlier date this year, so start planning a calendar around April 10-12. For all of our newer members who did not attend last year or do not know about RainbowFest, here is the low-down;

Once a year Rainbow Magazine puts together a show or an expo in Chicago for companies and owner/users of the Color Computer. This gathering is a great chance to meet with a host of people that support the CoCo with hardware & software (all of which you can buy), to meet people from the staff of Rainbow Magazine and to meet CoCo users from all around the mid-west and beyond. Once a year, you have the thrill of buying that CoCo something and not have to worry about paying extra for postage or shipping and handling. It is without a doubt a sensation the likes of putting a 'kid in a candy store'!

During our February 12th meeting, we will have a sign up sheet where you can order your Fest tickets in advance. The regular price for a weekend ticket is \$9 with a one day ticket costing \$7. By ordering in advance you will be able to save \$2 off the prices. If you are unable to attend the meeting, call Ed Hathaway at 462-0694 to place your order. Throughout the RainbowFest weekend there will be free seminars that you can attend. Subject matter will range from educational programs to OS-9. All being conducted by the experts in that field. People such as Cray Augsburg, Kevin Darling, Dan Downard, A. Buddy Hogan, Carl Kreider, Micheal Plog, Jim Reed, Mark Siegel, and Dick White, along with both Dale Puckett and Peter Dibble and the team of Eric Gavriluk and Greg Miller, too.

On Saturday, there will be a CoCo Community Breakfast that is open to anyone parting with \$12 (in advance). We will be ordering advance tickets to the breakfast, so you can place your order during the meeting. The keynote speaker is Greg Zumwalt, one of the early CoCo specialists who has created everything from flight simulators to computer games. Greg is an independent programmer and computer designer and is one of the few people Tandy has selected to write software for the new Color Computer 3. In addition, Rainbow is pleased to announce the EDUCATIONAL SANDBOX, a joint Tandy/Rainbow effort. This is a computer workshop for RainbowFest kids. There will be sessions on both Saturday and Sunday.

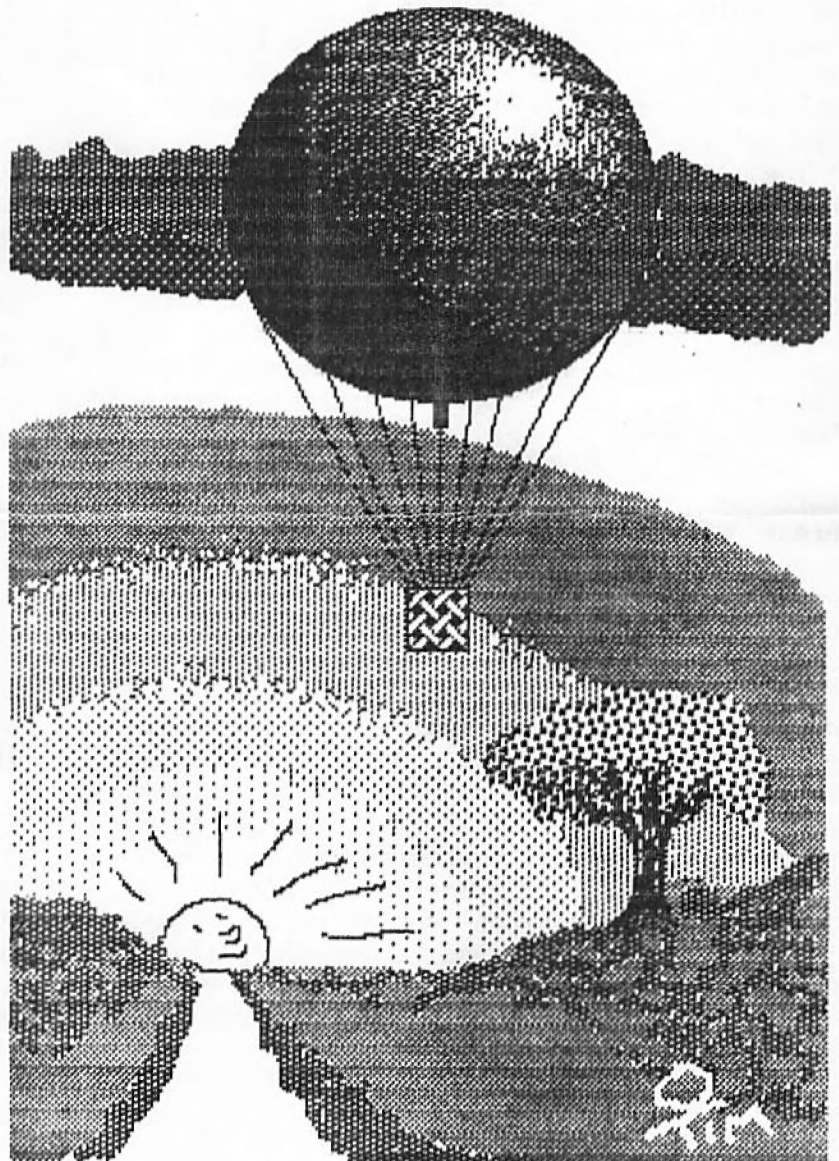
One workshop will be for the kindergarten through third-grade set, and the other for fourth through seven graders. Each workshop will last between 45 minutes and one hour, and will give the children and their parents hands-on experience in using Tandy computers and software.

For a preview of what a RainbowFest is all about, read Cray Augsburg's report on the Princeton, NJ RainbowFest in the February '87 Rainbow. This should give you a good feel as to what to expect. RainbowFest is flat out a super place to get a great price on most of the CoCo hardware or software you have been thinking about buying. EDITOR'S NOTE: Before entering the RainbowFest hall, leave your sanity with the coat-check person. RainbowFest takes NO PRISONERS!

CHICAGO RAINBOWfest

APRIL 10 - 12

HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD
GOLF ROAD SCHAUMBURG, IL



TID-BITS

* For the people with the Tandy - CM8 monitor, DO NOT USE A ZIP CORD TYPE EXTENSION PLUG. A ZIP CORD is one of those 3 way extension cords you can buy at any store known to man. The CM8 has a 'polarize' power cord (where one of the male prongs are larger then the other) and failure to have the proper AC connection could spell doom to not only your monitor, but to your computer also. Spend the extra \$10 and get the proper equipment to protect your investment!

* If you have the program called, DISK UTILITY V2.1 from Spectrum Projects and want to use it with your CoCoIII, do the following; LOADM the program. Type in PRINT PEEK(&H1109) ..The computer should return a number of 255. If the number 255 appears, type in POKE &H1109,&HFE ..At the OK prompt, type in: SAVEM"filename",&H1000,&H32EC,&H1000 ..The reason for this modification is because the program was designed to over write the upper page of memory when it tests for space (i.e. 64K). Thanks to Bob Patula for the above info.

* With the CoCoIII and the program ONE ON ONE, hold down the clear key as you are loading the program and see what happens! The first person to call Ed Hathaway at 462-0694 with the correct answer wins a special coffee cup.

* The following is a list of Tandy software that will NOT work on the CoCoIII; VIDEOTEX, DIAGNOSTICS ROM, DOWNLAND, ART GALLERY, CYRUS, DRAGONFIRE, MUSIC, APPLIANCE/LIGHT CONTROLLER, AUDIO SPECTRUM ANALYZER & KID-WRITER ..According to Tandy, NO upgrades or fixes are planned for any of this software. Information source: Tandy Corporation/Radio Shack.

* COMPUTER MALPRACTICE is a relatively new term and one of the most rapidly developing areas of law (the responsibility software developers have to their customers). Suits are being filed against writers of poorly designed computer programs and courts are routinely finding software developers "professionally negligent" and awarding damages. All professionals are required to perform their duties and obligations with the skill and care ordinarily shown by other professionals. The key word is "professional". Traditionally programmers have been considered skilled tradesmen. With the growth of professional societies, specialized degree programs and accrediting organizations, the field of data processing has taken on an upgraded status. Information source: 'THE WSYI REPORT'.



This is a
Colorama Board
supported by,
THE GLENSIDE COLOR
COMPUTER CLUB
SYSOP: DAVID BARNES

NEW MEMBERS

As of this mailing there have been seven (count'em 7) new members that joined the Glenside family. With these new members and the five who joined last month, we have had a +12% increase in membership since the start of 1987! Please welcome with me the newest members of the growing family of Glenside...

* Frank Oresteen of Wheaton has a 64K CoCoII disk system. He is also running a Tandy Model 3 & 4P system. Frank is a Ham Radio user and comes to Glenside via club member Ray Grundy.

* Ken Gideon of Schaumburg has a 64K CoCo disk system. Ken is one of the areas modem demons and comes our way through the Club BBS and SYSOP - David Barnes.

* Joseph Dybas of Chicago has a 128K CoCoIII disk system. Joe and his wife, Joann have 2 children age 5 & 4. The Dybas come to Glenside via Bob Patula and the Club BBS.

* George Terhune of Hoffman Estates has a CoCoI, II & III disk system along with a full array of hardware equipment. George comes to Glenside as a transfer from NICCC.

* Ed Smetana of Arlington Heights has a 64K CoCoI disk system with a DMP 105 printer. Ed comes to Glenside as a transfer from NICCC.

* Zena & Kevin Muma of Brownstown, IL just bought a 64K CoCoII disk system for Christmas. Because of where the Muma's live, they most likely will not be able to attend many meetings. They became members of Glenside to receive our Newsletter & take advantage of the Club's offerings. Zena & Kevin come to Glenside via our Club listing in Rainbow.

* Jerry Cook of Oak Park, IL has a 64K CoCoII disk system. Jerry is very active with the Boy Scouts and comes to Glenside through a friend.

1987 - THE YEAR AHEAD

by Jerry Morgan

Kansas City CoCo Club

In this article I will go out on a limb and make some predictions for the upcoming year 1987. I can't promise that they will all come true but times being what they are - who knows?

1. Tandy will come out with a new software package for the CoCo. It will be called "Home Pregnancy Test". A small bunny rabbit will romp across the screen and after inputting certain required data, it will turn and make unsightly gestures ...or a stork will fly overhead and drop a huge rock killing the rabbit. It will be a rompack.

2. Apple computers will drop the Apple IIe and replace it with a new computer called "The Big Jonathon". It will be compatible with the IIe. The difference is that all transistors will be replaced with vacuum tubes and the physical dimensions will be much too large for the average consumer to place in his/her house. Sales are expected to dip slightly until the public schools have had time to all special wings to house and cool the Big Jonathons. This will be seen by the industry as a 'brave new step backwards' for the computer industry.

3. Timex/Sinclair will introduce a new computer in 1987. It will be incorporated in the shape of a wrist watch, have 640K, one built-in mini-drive, and run MS-DOS software. They will be distributed by McDonald's fastfood chains throughout the country. Every child who buys a Happy Meal will get one.

4. The Commodore Amiga will capture the hearts (and pocket books) of thousands of computer enthusiasts. For the first six months, Amiga user's will fondly gaze at their newfound toy and write innovative programs like: Checkbook Balancer, Metric Converter, and Printing My Name 1000 Times. At the end of the six months the market will start to see allot of commercial programs and the price of the Amiga will drop \$700.

5. IBM will announce 'the CoCo Emulator'. It will be an add-on board for the IBM PC. It will emulate the CoCo II (extended basic with 64K). It's price will be \$500 and it will allow the IBM PC to run CoCo software at half speed. Demand from the PC community will far exceed the production capabilities of the manufacturers. Companies like E.F. Hutson will be using Spectaculator for investment analysis on Wall Street (with a quick game of Canyon Climber at coffee break).

6. The Atari Corporation, whose lifeblood hinges on the success of the Atari 520ST, will merge with Maytag. Jack Trammiel will sever relations with the Maytag company due to 'professional differences' and once again find himself unemployed. When pressed for further details Mr. Trammiel will site such problems as, "...their insistence on calling it 'the rinse cycle' instead of 'formatting a disk'".

7. Pentagon officials will OK the shipment of 5,000 Apple Computers to the Soviet Union. In defense of their sudden agreement to send the Russians the computer technology they have long desired, they will simply state, "What the hell. The technology is almost 10 years old and they can't do one single thing without installing additional boards".

Hope you enjoy 1987.

OS-9 LEVEL ONE AND LEVEL TWO

There may be some confusion in some quarters about the differences in these two packages. Essentially, they are two totally different operating systems. CoCo 2 owners who have Level One and purchase a CoCo 3, will be required to purchase a new Level Two package if they want to run OS-9.

CoCo 2 and 3 owners will find that when purchasing an application which runs under OS-9, an appropriate "runtime" version will be included in the application package. You won't have to purchase the OS-9 operating system package to run those applications.

Tandy Corporation/Radio Shack.

FEBRUARY MEETING REVIEW

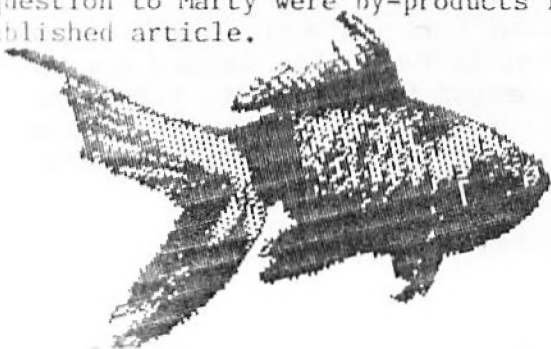
First I'll ask you, "will a free-for-all work for a computer club meeting?" I won't have the answer to this question until after it happens! For the February meeting we will be conducting Special Interest Groups. At one table there will be a Model 4 running through a variety of appulations. At another you will see the Club BBS in action. At yet another, there will be a CoCo graphics demo and display. If that was not enough, another table will feature different CoCo & MS-DOS business appulations. In addition, if you have a hardware problem, bring it along. Maybe the good Glenside Doctors can help you out! The best part of all this, is YOU! You can and are invited to jump around from table to table to see and get answers from the experts on the different appulations that are of interest to you... See you all on February 12th.

by Ed Hathaway

A few meetings past we handed out a Club Information Flyer we put together for new members and to distribute to our local RS stores. By doing this, we felt that we could assist the RS store managers and their sales people in providing answers to their never ending CoCo questions. In return the Club might get a few new members but the main reason was to establish a better working relationship with Tandy. Well, as you read, Lonnie was writing about this very subject in his PRINT#-2 article.

Then came Howard Medical's ad on page 34. We spoke about our arrangement with Howard in our last Newsletter and at the January meeting.

In Marty Goodman's column, Club V.P. Joe Register continued his questions regarding different RGB-A color monitor for the CoCo III. Joe had a featured article in our December '86 Newsletter called, Monitor Shopping, and detailed what to look for when buying a color monitor for your CoCo III. His question to Marty were by-products from his published article.



I bring all this to your attention not to brag (well maybe just a little) about our information network, but to lay out how close Glenside really is to the national pulse of the CoCo Community. It's a real thrill knowing what we know and being able to pass that information along to you. Having it show up in a magazine the caliber of Rainbow just confirms our never ending commitment of excellence and makes us all strive a little harder. Until next time remember, 'THERES NO PLACE LIKE HOME, THERES NO PLACE LIKE HOME'!



RAINBOWFEST
Chicago April 10-12

GLENSIDE COLOR COMPUTER CLUB of ILLINOIS

Contributing Writers: Keith Gerue

Joe Register

David Barnes

The Tonkin Reader

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* MASTER KEY II w/EXTENDED CABLE. This is the baby that has brought many copy protected programs to their knees! Asking \$95 - Contact Tony Belehradec at (312) 711-2805

* SPEECH SYSTEMS STEREO PAK. Asking \$25 - Call Orville Prehn at 690-0318

* IBM SELECTRIC 2 - PRINT WHEEL TYPEWRITER. 5 years young, just cleaned and adjusted. This typewriter prints 132 characters and is in perfect condition. Asking \$225.

* DMP 110 - RADIO SHACK DOT MATRIX PRINTER. 1 year young and in perfect condition. Uses 9.5 by 11 track paper. Asking \$200. CALL CAMILLE CHARLIER AT 893-0162 AFTER 4:30pm.

* AVATEX 300 BAUD MODEM. This is a direct connect modem compatible with the Color Computer. There are a few left at \$28 so place your order today. CALL JOHN CHASTEEN AT 860-2580

* Complete CompuServe Starter Kit with \$25 of FREE on-line time. This is a \$40 retail package, sale price \$25. Call RICH EKSTROM at 885-2573.

* DISTO - DISPLAY 80 SUPER CARD. Complete add-on board w/80 column; Real Time Clock & Parallel Printer Interface. Also, comes w/Basic & OS-9 Drivers. Asking \$50 (advertised price is \$139.95). Call RICH EKSTROM at 885-2573

* 64K COCO 2: HIGH PROFILE KEYBOARD, w/ MANUALS & HOOK-UPS CALL CARL DIRECT @ (815)568-6746

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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

As a reminder, our next club meeting will be on February 12th. For visitors, we meet at the Glenside Public Library in Glendale Heights. The Library is located on 25 W. Fullerton Ave. and we start our meetings at 7:30pm. Our meetings are open to all TRS-80 computer owners and users. For further information call either Ron Steinberg at 307-0466 or Ed Hathaway at 462-0694. See you in February.

MONITORS

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123A 12"

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1/2 HEIGHT CASE &
POWER SUPPLY \$39
FULL HEIGHT CASE &
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\$39.50

This 12" green screen high resolution monitor offers 80 column capability, Zenith quality and a 30 day warranty valid at any of Zenith's 1200 locations.

Retail \$149 **\$67⁵⁰**
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122A Zenith 12" Amber Screen offers the same 640 dots x 200 dots resolution at 15MHz as the 123A and a 90 day warranty valid at our 1200 locations.

\$88
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Closeout Specials - only 14 in stock. We have a limited number of lesser known color monitors that have been discontinued but are brand new in their original boxes.

\$149
(\$14 shipping)

141 Roland 13" Color Monitor with speaker, 270 dots x 200 dots resolution, 4 MHz band width.

\$217
(\$14 shipping)

131 Zenith 13" Color Monitor has medium resolution with speaker and RGB jack.

\$168
(\$14 shipping)

All monitors require an amplifier circuit to drive the monitor and are mounted inside the color computer. They attach with spring connectors, with two wires extending out of the computer, one for audio and one for video.

VA-1 for monochrome monitors only, fits all color computers

\$24⁴⁵
(\$2 shpg)

VC-4 for monochrome or color, fits all color computers

\$39⁴⁵
(\$2 shpg)

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FOR SALE

64K - CoCo II

4 months old - \$80

CGP 220 Color Printer \$210
Banana Gorilla Dot Matrix Printer
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300 Baud Modem w/CoCo Cable \$35
CoCo Touch Pad \$20
1 Kraft Delux Joystick \$20
1 Wico Joystick \$20

J&M Disk Controller (DC-4) w/Parallel
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1/2 Height Double Sided Bare Drive \$90
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Color Scripsit & MORE. All for \$60

FOR ANY OR ALL ITEMS CALL

Les Jones at 323-3280

Richard Skrydlak at 968-0989

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Monthly meetings every second Thursday

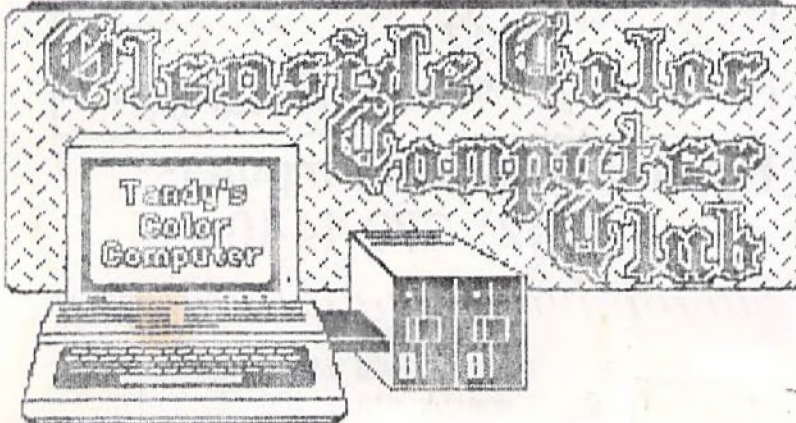
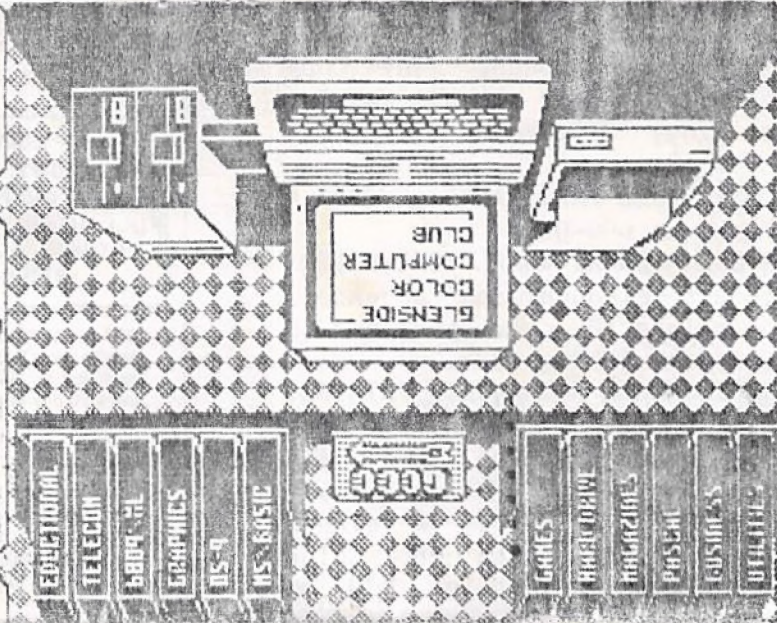
Information
for more
call: 462-0694

7:30 to 9:30pm

Glendale Hts, IL
Fullerton Ave.

Library
Glenside Public

Location



John (Tony) Podraza
119 Adobe Circle
Carpentersville IL 60110